



NEWS RELEASE

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District: District 2 - Redding

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Encourage Winter Storm Preparation

REDDING – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) anticipates high volume traffic due to the holiday weekend and with anticipated winter storms suggests that motorists are well prepared for their travels.

For up to date information on current roadwork and conditions, access to traffic cameras and weather information, you may visit the web site or call the toll free phone number.

- Current Road Conditions throughout the State are available at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/>

Information is also available by phone. When traveling in California and the Reno, Lake Tahoe area, try our toll free voice activated 800 service, **1-800-427-ROAD (7623)**. This service is available free from any touch tone phone, cellular phone or pay phone. All other areas outside of California you can dial **916-445-7623** to reach the same service.

These information systems provide current information regarding the condition of the California State Highway System. The information provided covers incidents that cause significant delays to the normal flow of traffic such as, but not limited to, full closures, 1-way traffic controls, lane closures, construction, maintenance projects, and emergencies. The following conditions will NOT be found in these reports; normal commute traffic, ramp closures and traffic flow conditions.

- Weather conditions on corridors prone to snow and ice can be accessed on the web at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/chainup/winmaint.htm>
- Current Chain Control requirements: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/chainup/all_cntys.htm
- Traffic Cameras: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/cctv/traffic_cams.shtml

ABOUT DELAYS AND CLOSURES

Weather and road conditions change rapidly and may cause a change in chain control points or a closure of the highway. The highway may be open when you leave home, but may close or have chain controls imposed as you are traveling to your destination.

Spinouts and accidents happen frequently during storms, which may block the roadway for several hours. Heavily traveled routes are particularly vulnerable to such closures.

Low visibility caused by high winds and blowing snow is another cause for closing a highway.

Caltrans is trying to reduce the number and length of times I-5 is closed due to spinouts and accidents. During major storms when traffic flow is heavy, Caltrans will implement one or all of the following check point controls:

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1. **Truck Screening:** This is typically done for northbound I-5 approximately 10 miles north of Redding (Fawndale Interchange). All semi-trucks will be checked to make sure they have a full set of tire chains before being allowed to travel north into areas where chains will be required.
2. **Metering** will be implemented when necessary to control the number of vehicles that feed into the snow area. This congestion control procedure gives Caltrans a better chance of keeping the freeway open.
3. **Chains Required on Black Pavement:** At times you will be required to use chains before encountering snow on the pavement. This is necessary due to the limited number of fully equipped check points, changing snow levels, and the need to prevent problems before they happen.

Weather in northern California is very unpredictable and changes rapidly. If there is a prediction of severe winter weather conditions, we suggest motorists stay off the roadways. If travel is necessary, make sure your vehicle is in sound condition. Start your trip with a full tank of gas and make sure your cell phone battery is fully charged. Inform others of your trip plans and when you are expected to arrive at your destination. Take a winter storm kit along with you which should include such items as tire chains, booster cables, flashlight, extra batteries, shovel, a bag of sand or cat litter, blankets and extra clothing, food, water, a first aid kit, matches or anything else that would help you survive in case you become stranded.

For more information regarding any of Caltrans programs or services, please contact the Public Information Office at 229-0511.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the internet at the following web address:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm

